

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A carrying system for carrying a portable item of equipment, said system comprising:

a cord forming a loop; and

a member on the loop, retaining two strands of the cord to form a closed loop defining an aperture;

wherein the member is provided with first retaining means suitable for retaining a portion of the closed loop, so as to form a closed double loop, thereby reducing the aperture, and wherein the first retaining means comprise a catch provided with a groove of width less than the cross-sectional width of the cord.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (ORIGINAL) The carrying system of claim 1, further comprising second retaining means, the cord co-operating with the second retaining means to form the closed loop.

4. (ORIGINAL) The carrying system of claim 3, wherein at least one strand of the cord is mounted to slide relative to the second retaining means.

5. (ORIGINAL) The carrying system of claim 4, wherein the member has locking means for preventing said strand of the cord from sliding.
6. (ORIGINAL) The carrying system of claim 5, wherein the member is provided with a passageway of cross-section suitable for preventing said strand of the cord from sliding when a force less than a predetermined force is applied to the cord.
7. (ORIGINAL) The carrying system of claim 6, wherein the cross-section of the passageway is smaller than the cross-section of said strand of the cord.
8. (ORIGINAL) The carrying system of claim 1, wherein the member has a fastening suitable for retaining a portable item of equipment.
9. (ORIGINAL) The carrying system of claim 8, wherein the fastening comprises:
  - a second cord portion opposite from the loop; and
  - a part fixed to the second cord portion to form a fastening loop for fastening to a portable item of equipment.
10. (ORIGINAL) The carrying system according to claim 1, wherein the cord has a length greater than about 40 cm.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A carrying system for carrying a portable item of equipment, said system comprising:

a cord forming a loop; and

a member on the loop, retaining two strands of the cord to form a closed loop defining an aperture;

wherein the member is provided with a retainer which retains a portion of the closed loop, so as to form a closed double loop, thereby reducing the aperture, wherein  
said retainer comprises a catch provided with a groove of width less than the cross-  
sectional width of the cord.

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The carrying system of claim 11, further comprising a second retainer, the cord co-operating with said second retainer to form the closed loop.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The carrying system of claim 13, wherein at least one strand of the cord is mounted to slide relative to the second retainer.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The carrying system of claim 14, wherein the member has a lock which prevents said strand of the cord from sliding.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The carrying system of claim 15, wherein the member is provided with a passageway of cross-section suitable for preventing said strand of the cord from sliding when a force less than a predetermined force is applied to the cord.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The carrying system of claim 16, wherein the cross-section of the passageway is smaller than the cross-section of said strand of the cord.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The carrying system of claim 11, wherein the member has a fastening suitable for retaining a portable item of equipment.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The carrying system of claim 18, wherein the fastening comprises:

    a second cord portion opposite from the loop; and  
    a part fixed to the second cord portion to form a fastening loop for fastening to a portable item of equipment.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The carrying system according to claim 11, wherein the cord has a length greater than about 40 cm.

21. (NEW) A carrying system for carrying portable item of equipment, said system comprising:

    a cord forming a loop;

a member on the loop, retaining two strands of the cord to form a closed loop defining an aperture; wherein said member comprises:

    a retainer which retains a portion of the closed loop, so as to form a closed double loop, thereby reducing the aperture, and  
    a projection adjacent to said retainer, forming a space between said retainer and said projection to accommodate said cord.

22. (NEW) The carrying system of claim 21, wherein the retainer comprises a catch provided with a groove of width less than the cross-sectional width of the cord.

23. (NEW) The carrying system of claim 21, further comprising a second retainer, the cord co-operating with said second retainer to form the closed loop.

24. (NEW) The carrying system of claim 23, wherein at least one strand of the cord is mounted to slide relative to the second retainer; and wherein the member has a lock which prevents said strand of the cord from sliding.

25. (NEW) A carrying system for carrying a portable item of equipment, said system comprising:

    a cord forming a loop;  
    a member on the loop, retaining two strands of the cord to form a closed loop defining an aperture; wherein said member comprises:

two channels, each of which accommodates one of said strands, and wherein each channel comprises a separate opening into which said respective strands are inserted, and wherein both of said channels merge to form an exit from which each of said strands exit said member.

26. (NEW) The carrying system of claim 25, wherein the member further comprises a retainer which retains a portion of the closed loop, so as to form a closed double loop, thereby reducing the aperture.

27. (NEW) The carrying system of claim 26, wherein the retainer comprises a catch provided with a groove of width less than the cross-sectional width of the cord.

28. (NEW) The carrying system of claim 26, further comprising a second retainer, the cord co-operating with said second retainer to form the closed loop.

29. (NEW) The carrying system of claim 28, wherein at least one strand of the cord is mounted to slide relative to the second retainer, and wherein the member has a lock which prevents said strand of the cord from sliding.

30. (NEW) A carrying system for carrying a portable item of equipment, said system comprising:

a cord forming a loop; and

a member on the loop, retaining two strands of the cord to form a closed loop defining an aperture;

wherein the member is provided with a retainer which retains a portion of the closed loop, so as to form a closed double loop, thereby reducing the aperture, wherein said retainer has an upper surface, and wherein said retainer comprises a catch provided with a groove of width less than the cross-sectional width of the cord, and

wherein the member has a fastening suitable for retaining a portable item of equipment, where the fastening comprises:

a second cord portion opposite from the loop; and  
a part fixed to the second cord portion to form a fastening loop for fastening to a portable item of equipment.